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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Turks in the US Bothered by TV Series - Sabah
PM Erdogan Invites Russian Businessmen to Invest in Turkey - Sabah
'Genocide Warning' from the US Delegation - Sabah
US Wants Operational Use of Incirlik - Hurriyet
A Summit on PKK but not Much Hope - Milliyet
Erdogan Urges Putin to Lift Embargo on 'TRNC' - Milliyet
Abizaid Comes to Turkey - Star
Abizaid's Surprise Visit - Aksam
US Deploys Troops in Tsunami Region - Aksam
PKK Summit in Ankara - Turkiye
Erdogan Urges Putin to Save 'TRNC' from Isolation - Turkiye
The First Step to Eliminate the PKK - Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

Agenda in Russia Started With Cyprus - Radikal
Intense Traffic With the US - Radikal
US Delegation Threatens Ankara - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

US Congressional Delegation in Ankara: "Sabah", and "Cumhuriyet" report that Senator Jon Kyl led a US congressional delegation to Ankara yesterday for official meetings with Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul. After the delegation's meeting at the Foreign Ministry, Senator Kyl was asked about recent critical statements by Turkish politicians about the United States and their possible impact on the 'Armenian genocide' issue in the US Congress. Senator Kyl characterized the statements as 'fallacious,' and warned that their 'could be repercussions' in the Congress. "Sabah" reports that Kyl said he hoped that the US and Turkey could 'overcome' this problem.

General Abizaid Comes to Turkey: Most papers report that the US CENTCOM Commander General John Abizaid will arrive in Ankara today for official meetings with the Turkish General Staff, the Foreign Minister, and the General Secretary of the National Security Council.. Because General Abizaid's visit coincides with the trilateral talks on the PKK issue, "Aksam" describes the visit as 'surprising.' "Hurriyet" suggests that General Abizaid will ask Turkey for a broader use of Incirlik Air Base in efforts to establish security in Iraq.

Trilateral Meeting on PKK Issue: Papers report that delegations from Turkey, the US and Iraq will hold a trilateral meeting on security issues, particularly the PKK threat, today in Ankara. The US delegation will be led by Deputy Assistant Secretary Laura Kennedy, the Turkish delegation will be headed by the Turkish Ambassador in Iraq, Osman Koruturk, and Deputy Foreign Minister Hamid Al-Bayati will represent Iraq. "Milliyet" adds that this will be the first three-way meeting on the PKK issue.

PM Erdogan's Visit to Russia: "Hurriyet" reports that Erdogan's visit to Russia is intended to ease Putin's concerns that Turkish-Russian relations would weaken after Turkey's EU accession. During his visit to Turkey on the eve of the EU summit in December, Putin had given a clear message that Turkey should not join the EU. In order to ease these concerns, Erdogan traveled to Russia with over 600 Turkish businessmen and noted that Turkey would never give up its cooperation with Russia. "Milliyet" notes that during their dinner last night, Erdogan asked for Putin's support at the UN to lift the embargo against the 'TRNC.' He also reportedly encouraged the Russians to build oil pipelines through Turkey that would reduce the number of

tankers that pass through the Turkish Straits.

EDITORIAL OPINION:
Israel-Palestine
The US and Indonesia

"A New Beginning in the Middle East"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (1/11):
"Palestine has entered into a new period following its extraordinarily democratic performance during the elections. Yet this new period comes with both opportunities and challenges. There are some urgent domestic issues for Abbas to deal with: reform of the state system, the unemployment problem, economic and social reforms, stability and security. . His performance on these domestic issues is directly related to international circumstances, particularly the Palestinians' relations with Israel. An agreement with Israel should be a priority for Abbas. There is hope on that score, since Abbas has already voiced his intention to engage in a dialogue with Israeli PM Sharon. . The Israeli cabinet has been altered to include Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, who has also stated his willingness to meet with Abbas. The US and the EU are preparing to launch some initiatives as well. These are all good signs that provide hope for a new beginning in the Middle East."

"The Key to Peace is in the hands of Sharon, not Abbas"

Haluk Ulman wrote in the economic-political "Dunya" (1/11):
"The West, including the United States, is very happy about the election results in Palestine. They believe that Abbas is a great chance for peace in the Middle East. Yet there is an oversight here. The biggest obstacle to a Palestinian-Israeli peace settlement was never Arafat, despite what is claimed by Sharon and the Bush administration. Contrary to common belief, when Clinton tried to broker a peace agreement in Camp David between Arafat and Barak in 2000, it was the Israeli PM, not Arafat, who blocked the deal. Barak refused to accept the transfer of East Jerusalem to the Palestinian State. This was the real reason for the failure at Camp David. At present, there is no reason to believe that Sharon will do anything different. . It is much too early to conclude that Abbas is going to establish peace with Israel, especially as long as Sharon remains in power."

"A US Occupation in Indonesia"

Yalcin Dogan wrote in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (01/11):
"Assistance has become mixed up with the barrel of a gun. This is a golden opportunity, so America has now sent 15,000 troops to Indonesia! Turhan Comez, an AKP deputy from Balikesir, has gone to Indonesia on his own initiative to gather some information on the assistance efforts for non-governmental organizations. His observations are interesting. Most importantly, he talks about the particular interest of the US in Indonesia. .Indonesia was opposed to the US occupation of Iraq, but it also controls the natural gas and oil fields of Sumatra. Besides that, Indonesia controls the region's most important maritime strait. And the region doesn't lack for separatist and radical forces, either. The earthquake has created an opportunity for the US. By saying "we are helping you," the US has put 15,000 troops in Indonesia! Several pretexts are coming together at once and, under the guise of earthquake assistance, an occupation has started there!"

EDELMAN